

form a settlement. But on hearing of the isolated situation of his purchase, they all declined settling with him. Others, however, of this denomination, from New England, were induced to settle here, which led to the organization of this church. It was constituted with six members.* In the spring of 1793 the regular and public worship of God on the Sabbath was commenced, which has never ceased to the present day. Having no minister of the Gospel to preach to them, they read printed discourses. Among those often read, were the sermons of Whitfield and Stennett.

Missionaries, in passing through this region, would spend one or two Sabbaths and preach to the people of this new settlement. The Rev. Daniel Thatcher, a missionary of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, visited them, and on the 9th of July, 1797, administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This was the first time this truly Christian ordinance was ever administered in this town.† It is spoken of in a record made of it by Mr. Stanton, as a very interesting and profitable season. Several other missionaries of the General Assembly, in passing through this region, tarried over Sabbath and preached to the people of this settlement. Among them we notice the names of Rev. Messrs. Aaron Condit, James Boyd, Asa Hillyer and Robert H. Chapman.

The first resident clergyman settled here in 1800. His name was Epaphras Thompson. He was from Bristol, Connecticut. He was a Close Communion

* See Appendix, No. 11.

† See Appendix, No. 12.

ion Baptist. A few months after his arrival, he attempted to induce the Free Communion Church he found in this settlement to adopt the Close Communion faith. Failing, however, in this attempt, he united with them, and preached to them for several years. In 1806 Mr. Elijah Peck was ordained by this Church as a Gospel minister. In 1807 he, with Elder Thompson and seven or eight other members of this church, separated and formed a Close Communion Church, which became very numerous under his ministrations. Both of these churches declined, and were some years ago disbanded. No vestige of them now remains.

In 1806 the first Methodist clergyman preached in this township. This was the Rev. Annon Owen. He had a circuit extending from Wilkesbarre through this region to the Delaware river. The first Methodist Society was organized the same year in the house of Abram Cramer. Among the various clergymen who have been successively appointed over this charge, we notice the Rev. George Peck, D. D., and the Rev. Benjamin Ellis.

On the 26th of January, 1814, a Congregational Church was organized in this town by the Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury and Rev. Worthington Wright, missionaries of the Connecticut Missionary Society. It was organized with seventeen members in the house of the late John Tiffany. In 1831 this church changed its form of government, and became Presbyterian, which form it still retains. At first the church was supplied occasionally by missionaries. Public worship was, however, uniformly sustained when destitute of a